

Leading God's Way

Renewed By Confession and Thanksgiving

November 24, 2019 / Dan Solofra

¹ After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the doors in place, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the Levites were appointed. **Nehemiah 7:1, NIV**

Thanksgiving 542 B.C. - Thank God for the _____.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. **Nehemiah 8:5-6, NIV**

We give praise and thanks to God by _____ what he has to say to us and bowing in _____ to him.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**" **Nehemiah 8:10, NIV**

Thanksgiving is a powerful tool by which we receive _____ from the Lord as we remember his goodness.

¹ On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. . . . ³ They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God. **Nehemiah 9:1&3, NIV**

Thanksgiving time can be _____.

We thank him for his grace which we need, _____.

^{5b} "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting." "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise." ⁶ You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

⁷ "You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham." **Nehemiah 9:5^b-7, NIV**

God has established a _____ of undeserved love across the ages. It is seen most clearly in Jesus.

²⁸ "But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time.

²⁹ "You warned them in order to turn them back to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. . .

³⁸ "In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and . . . affixing their seals to it." **Nehemiah 9:28-29a, 38 NIV**

Giving thanks is an _____ necessity for God's people.

MEMORY VERSE

"Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting." "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise." **Nehemiah 9:5^b, NIV**

My next step: I will establish a pattern of thanks in my life. I will thank God for his gifts and his continual presence.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

Impact Group Questions

Leading God's Way – Renewed by Confession and Thanks

Open with Prayer

Welcome to Group!

Our CrossWalk values guide the way we act as a family. They are listed on the banners as you walk into church. What would you say is the thing about CrossWalk that makes you most thankful?

Going Back to Sunday

Each week we will begin with the same question, **“What about the message from Sunday challenged, confused, encouraged or made the biggest impact on you?”** Use your sermon notes to jog your memory if you have them.

Refresh Your Memory:

Read Nehemiah 8:1-6

After they secured the city by building a wall, it was time to go about the activities inside of the city – specifically listening to God's Word. When they read the word some people cried and other people shouted for joy. Why do you suppose there was such a huge difference in the way people responded?

When God's Word was read it was inevitable that the people would be made aware of ways they sinned by what they were doing or not doing. Why is this an important part of the growth process of God's people?

Respond: I don't like going to a church like CrossWalk because they talk about sin too much. (Consider the theme: Renewed by confession)

In chapter 9 of Nehemiah the people were reminded of God's track record of goodness. As a group, quickly list 10 things from the Old Testament that show God's track record of goodness.

Now take 5 minutes and write a brief history of the track record of God's goodness in your life.

Share it with the group.

My Next Step:

We are renewed by thanksgiving! For the next 7 days start your day by identifying 3 different things for which you can give thanks to God. Experience firsthand how thanks can renew your heart and mind.

Doing Life Together: This is the last group meeting until the end of January. Plan a fun event for your group between now and the end of January,

Friendship:

Spend the final 10 to 15 minutes of group catching up with other group members. Take time to get to know those you don't know quite as well. Make sure to include everyone in the group.

Reminder:

Winter Groups

The next groups semester will begin at the end of January. If you have an interest in leading a group, please contact Pastor Dan ASAP to start to get you group organized.

Church Center App

A great way to stay connected at CrossWalk is the Church Center app. It is helpful for groups because it allows you to stay connected to your group calendar AND each week you have access to Impact Group questions on the app!